(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any decision has been taken regarding introduction of the said Bill during the current session of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (c) The Protection from Domestic Violence Bill, 2002 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 8th March, 2002. The Bill was examined and reported upon by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on H.R.D. in its 124th Report. The same is being examined by the Government.

Women study centres

†1933. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.G.C. has taken a decision to change the name of women study centres; and

(b) if so, justification for taking such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

MoU with Pakistan

1934. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Publishers have signed a MoU with Pakistan Publishers and Booksellers Association to promote book trade and co-publishing; and

(b) if so, what are the details of MoU signed by both the countries and to what extent it will beneficial to each other?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per information received from the Federation of Indian Publishers, (FIP), a representative body of the Publishers in India, MoU was signed on 29 August, 2003 with the Pakistan Publishers and Booksellers Association (PPBA) in New Delhi to promote book trade and publishing.

According to FIP, MoU will be beneficial to both the countries to promote cause of books, writers and the publishing industry in each other's country like co-publishing, sale and purchase of copyrights between the publishers of the two countries and the curbing of piracy. Both FIP and PPBA will cooperate with each other in publishing matters at various international publishing forums and exchange of information for mutual benefit.

Honouring the witch-doctors

†1935. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has honoured 51 witch-doctors;

(b) if so, what is the basis of honouring them;

(c) whether by promoting superstitions in cantation, voodooism and by honouring such witch-doctors harassment of women is not being encouraged; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to stop this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.